GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2242
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2016
Food Adulteration
Chavda Shri Vinod;Mani Shri Jose K.;Munde Dr.Pritam Gopinath;Raju Shri Gokaraju Ganga;Yellaiah Shri Nandi

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adulterated and spurious food items including milk, ghee, spices, fruits and vegetable, etc., posing health hazard are being sold across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of incidents reported, cases registered and food items found unfit for consumption during each of the last three years and current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) the mechanism available for checking adulterated above food items;

(d) whether the Government proposes to ban such pesticides and chemical used in the food products, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check this menace?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a) & (b): Some cases of adulteration in food items have come to the notice of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). As per the information made available by State/UT Governments to FSSAI, the state-wise details of samples of food articles collected, tested, found not conforming to the prescribed standards and action taken during last three years, are at Annexure-I, II & III.

(c): Random sampling and testing of food products from notified food testing laboratories, etc. is undertaken by officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check compliance with standards laid down under the FSS Act, 2006 and Regulations thereunder.

(d): As per Section 21 of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, no article of food can contain insecticides or pesticides residues, veterinary drugs residues, antibiotic residues, solvent residues, pharmacological active substances and micro-biological counts in excess of such tolerance limit as may be specified by regulations, and no insecticide can be used directly on article of food except fumigants registered and approved under the Insecticides Act, 1968(46 of 1968). Further, the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 prescribe tolerance limits of insecticides, antibiotics, etc. in specified food products.

(e): Implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the Food Safety (FSS) Act, 2006 and regulations thereunder primarily rests with the Food Safety Departments of the States/Union Territories. Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products are undertaken by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/ UTs to check that food products comply with the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the rules and regulations made thereunder. In cases, where the food samples are found to be non-conforming to the prescribed standards, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS Act, 2006. FSSAI also regularly follows up with the State/UT Government authorities through intermittent communications and interactions during the meetings of the Central Advisory Committee, which comprises the Commissioners of Food Safety of all States and UTs, for effective implementation of the FSS Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder.